

We know how and why that reign ended. And now we are watching it happen again. This time it is happening in parts of Afghanistan while the United States and its NATO allies fight a resurgent Taliban. It is happening in Pakistan, where President Asif Ali Zardari has foolishly surrendered the Swat Valley on its border with Afghanistan to Taliban terrorists. It is happening while the United Nations dithers and its Human Rights Council finds nothing in the world that it can't blame on Israel.

Once again, the Taliban dares the world. Taliban recruits are surging into the Swat Valley, according to a chilling report in The Wall Street Journal. They're setting up training camps, just as they welcomed Osama bin

Zardari needs to tear up the so-called peace agreement with the Taliban, retake the Swat Valley and re-establish government authority. And how can Karzai expect respect on the world stage when he accedes to a parliament that values women only as chattel for men?

Asma Jahangir, head of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, recently condemned the flogging of the 17-year-old girl. And she fired off a warning: "This is not just the flogging of the girl," she said. "It is an indication of what is in store for us."

We have seen this before, what's happening in the Swat Valley. It is a warning for the world.

- Chicago Tribune

YOURVIEWS

4/21/09

Moving books would be easier

Sometimes I find it very interesting reading letters in the Daily News about the library issue. Do some of the writers really know what is in the books? If you have a computer, just punch in www.wissup.blogspot.com. This site will show you what's in the books. But be warned, if you're at work, don't read the info, you'll get fired.

No computer at home? Just go to the second floor at the library and use one of the Internet-accessible computers. If you don't know how to use a computer, just ask the librarian; she'll help you. But watch out - if someone walks by and is offended by what you're reading, the librarian will ask you not to look at the stuff any more. They now have your name and what you were looking at.

You could have your 12-year-old look it up. They won't get in trouble. It's their right.

You could also go downstairs to the kids section at the back of the library. I mean the Y.A. section. Apparently if you're 10 or 12, you're no longer a kid. You'll know when you're in the kids (Y.A.) section; it'll be the one where the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries are. Just pull the books off the shelves and read them next to the other young kids. When you get embarrassed at what you're reading, you can duck into the bathroom right there and lock yourself into a stall. Better yet, check out the books and take them home. Your 12-year-old can read them to you at home. It's their right.

Then call or write your library and ask to just move them to the adult section. It could be as easy as that.

Linda Bruss
West Bend

Give full information about book 'reviews'

In the continuing West Bend library books saga, Ginny Maziarka published a blog entry on her website about negative Amazon customer reviews of "Deal With It!," one of the books she objects to.

I checked the book on Amazon. In fact, its rating from 88 reviews is 4.5 out of 5. (Seventy-eight) reviews give it a 4 or a 5, and what Ms. Maziarka did was copy excerpts of those (six)

reviews that gave it a 1, the lowest rating.

On the other hand, one of the books recommended on her Web site is "Marriage Under Fire" by James Dobson, rated by Amazon readers at a whopping 2.5.

Ms. Maziarka, when one needs to twist the truth to make a point, one has no point.

John Jost
West Bend

Celebrating Banned Books Week?

Will West Bend celebrate Banned Books Week this year?

Banned Books Week is the only national celebration of the freedom to read. It was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. More than a thousand books have been challenged since 1982. The challenges have occurred in every state and in hundreds of communities. People challenge books that they say are too sexual or too violent. They object to profanity and slang, and protest against offensive portrayals of racial or religious groups - or positive portrayals of homosexuals. Their targets range from books that explore the latest problems to classic and beloved works of American literature.

According to the American Library Association, more than 400 books were challenged in 2007. The 10 most challenged titles were:

1. And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
2. The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
3. Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes
4. The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman
5. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
6. The Color Purple by Alice Walker
7. TTYL by Lauren Myracle
8. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
9. It's Perfectly Normal by Robie Harris
10. The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky.

Dave Goska
Fredericksburg, Va.

trend is alarming g has been a cornerst my for over half a (ployment rate of 9. job losses in manuf

There are many (the decline in man Overall demand is global economy is more difficult to ju trations of industr are also making th

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(Owen B. Robi, blogger who pub com. His column News.)

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